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A TREATISE ON ATTORNEYS AT LAW. By Edward M. Thornton. Edward Thompson Co., Northport, Long Island, N. Y. 1914. Vol. 1, pp. cclxxx, 624; vol. 2, pp. 625, 1499. \$12.00.

Two volumes containing thirteen hundred and thirty-one pages of text and notes, one hundred and fifty-eight pages of index, and about ten thousand cases, enumerated in a table of cases two hundred and seventy-five pages long, are necessary to expound this one branch of our law, which is by no means an extensive one, or one of transcendent importance. And yet Mr. Thornton has not treated the very important and difficult historical aspect of the subject, nor has he discussed the problems of the Bar in its relation to society. His book is devoted to a careful presentation of the results of the case law upon this subject, so as to enable it to be used profitably by lawyers or judges dealing with questions affecting the rights, powers, duties, or liabilities of attorneys at law. It seems to be a useful and trustworthy guide, carefully and conscientiously prepared.

It is a good omen that text books upon limited fields of the law, such as that which Mr. Thornton has chosen, are again finding favor with law publishers. The mechanical treatment of subjects which is demanded by an encyclopaedic method such as has been popular for some years has, we believe, been disadvantageous in many respects to the proper development of the law. Better than any corpus juris which could be constructed with our present equipment, would be a series of exhaustive text books upon different legal topics, of a quality like Mr. Thornton's work upon Attorneys at Law.

*O. K. M.*

ANNOTATED RULES OF PRACTICE IN THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL COURTS. By Wm. Whitwell Dewhurst, 2nd ed. Banks Law Publishing Co., 23 Park Place, New York. 1914. pp. vii, 951. \$6.50.

The modern tendency is to leave the details of procedure to rules of court instead of to the legislature. The same questions arise however under either method and must be solved. Accordingly rule books and their annotations tend to become more and more bulky year by year. Such books are indispensable. The annotations give the practitioner the help in following the rules that he could get in no other way. Besides the present Supreme Court, equity and other rules governing federal courts, the former rules of the Supreme Court and in equity are also given with annotations in the present work. These annotations often throw light on corresponding provisions in the present rules. With the growing importance of rule making to the courts a collection of this kind has much value. Incidentally there is probably considerable legal history between the lines of the former rules. Supreme Court Rule III, of February 7, 1790, provided that counsellors should not practice as attorneys nor attorneys as counsellors. Had this attempt

to preserve the English distinction between barristers and solicitors been successful the history of the American Bar would have been very different.

A. M. K.

**LEGAL PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.** By Henry Bixby Hemenway. T. H. Flood and Co., 214 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill. 1914. pp. xxxvi, 859. \$7.50.

Dr. Hemenway in his work on Public Health presents the problems which confront those interested in public health administration, and after reviewing the fundamental principles involved, offers some excellent solutions. The main difficulty which he points out is the drafting of health provisions which meet the public needs and are at the same time constitutional. Physicians who understand the needs of the community are ordinarily unable to frame laws which meet with the approval of the courts, whereas lawyers are so blinded by the legal side of the question that their measures accomplish but little public good when enacted. This same difficulty, however, is encountered in all branches of legislation, and will undoubtedly remain a stumbling block until proposed laws are drafted by a bureau of trained experts.

Dr. Hemenway sets forth our basic principles of government and constitutional law in a clear and concise manner and shows their relation to public health administration. His work may be read understandingly by members both of the legal and medical professions as he has confined his technical terms principally to the table of contents. It should prove of great value to those who, without Dr. Hemenway's intimate knowledge of the two professions, are interested in that new field of public endeavor—health reform.

E. J. S.

**ETHICS OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION.** By Orrin N. Carter. Northwestern University Press, Northwestern University Building, Chicago. 1915. pp. xxiv, 116. \$1.50.

The term "legal ethics" is misleading, in that it implies that there are certain moral obligations imposed on the lawyer, differing from those resting on the community at large, whereas ethical standards are the same for every trade, business, and profession. That a lawyer should observe an oral stipulation is not a precept of legal ethics, it is merely an example of the general duty to keep promises. In many situations the conflict is not squarely presented between right and wrong. The difficulty is in determining what is right. General advice that fees should be moderate, that lawyers should not represent conflicting interests, etc., is of no assistance in determining what is a proper fee, or what interests are conflicting, where a difficult case is presented. A study of the actual problems, passed on by the Legal Ethics Committee of the New York City Bar Association, may in time establish rules in some of these perplexing cases. Taking away the general principles of moral